

Call to Worship: Great is the Lord, and greatly to
be praised; Honor and majesty are before Him;
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.
Call to Confession: The Lord is near to all that call
upon him; to all who call upon him in truth.
He fulfills the desire of all who fear him;
He also hears their cry, and saves them.
Lord, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.
Assurance of Pardon: Hear these words of Scripture;
The Lord is gracious, merciful, slow to anger,
and abounding in steadfast love. If you forgive men
their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also
forgive you.

TRINITY: GOLDEN AGE CLUB THURS
MAY 27, 1:30 HERE. REV. TWEEDY
SLAIN MAGIC.

CHRIST: ORGAN VOTE 85 TO 5.

COM. THURS. 8:00 P.M.

SPECIAL

TRINITY CHARGE--THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Ralph C. Link, Pastor
Trinity Church, New Bloomfield 9:00 A.M.
Christ Church, Duncannon 10:30 A.M.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP May 23, 1971

The Organ Prelude
*The Hymn of Praise 68
*The Call to Worship
*The Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Out of the depths we cry to thee, O Lord!
Lord, hear our voice. Let thy ears be attentive to our confessions and supplications. If thou, O Lord, shouldst mark iniquities who could stand? But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared. We wait for the Lord, our souls wait, and in his words we hope. O people, hope in the Lord, for with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is plenteous redemption. He will redeem us from all our iniquities. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who came into the world to save sinners. Amen.

*The Kyrie
*The Assurance of Pardon
The Scripture----Psalm 24
Isaiah 65: 17-25

*The Gloria Patri
Anthem (Trinity)
Pastoral Prayer
Announcements
The Receiving of Tithes and Offerings
*The Doxology
*The Offering Prayer and Lord's Prayer
The Hymn of Meditation 399
The Sermon ---- "The Earth Is The Lord's"
Who Says So?

The Sermon Prayer
*The Hymn of Response 393
*The Benediction
*The Threefold Amen
*The Postlude

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Some coming events to be noted:
Penn Central Conference will be held from June 11th to the 13th at Lebanon Valley.
June 20th at 2:00 P.M. a joint consistory meeting will be held.
Also on June 20th at 8:00 P.M. the Mercersburg Association will officially license and install Ralph C. Link as the Pastor of the Trinity Charge.

Trinity Church Announcements

Today at 6:30 P.M. there will be a covered dish dinner at the Church. Bring a dish or two, your family and your friends and let's enjoy food and fellowship together.

Christ Church Announcements

The Win A Chum class is selling trays as a class project. Rather than order more trays than are needed they are taking orders for them. You may see one of these displayed at the back of the church. The price is \$1.00 per tray and you may order them from any of the class members. The proceeds are to be given to the organ fund.

"The Earth is The Lord's"
Who Says So?

Soli Stewardship week

Earth Lord's, who says so? Author of Psalms

Modern man says, my mine, pollute like I want. So it kills a few fish etc.

Factory owner, my mill, pulp paper. So pollutes air, product needed.

Farmer says, plowing like this for years. No soil loss. My land anyhow.

Average American says, what's another bottle or paper in park. My park too.

Jesus story of vineyard.

Man went away, left tenants in charge. Sent servants to collect produce.
tenants killed them. Sent others same result.

Sent Son and killed him too.

Jesus asked, "Now what will the owner of the vineyard do to them?"

Modern interpretation of parable. Vineyard, world

Owner God, tenants you and I.

Servants, prophets and preachers warning

We have responsibility as tenants.

If we hire, we expect work and results

1 Seneca illustration:

Not only bishop or church leaders, but lowly deacon and deaconess.

Brand new member all serve. Man's chief motive in life.

Dr. on rounds, scientist at micro. farmer at milking equip.

hardware man at counter, housewife at housework, all serve God in worship.

Not only serve in church but every day of lives worship

2 Barclay illustration:

Some predictions about end and toolate.

3 Satan illustration:

Put off tomorrow, tomorrow may not come.

All must join fight now and not put off.

Too long have done things and then looked to future generations

This what kids saying today.

Not Gods will either that have pollution.

Examples of Jesus healing and raising dead, and if Gods will then going
against God.

4 O. Henry illustration of boy:

William Cowper short verse:

Realization of something wrong first step to changing way of living

Requires more than change.

6 Leigh Hunt illustration:

Must learn to love fellowman. If suffer we suffer, if sick we sick

If hungry we hungry. Maybe not problems now but later.

As joint tenants must take respons. seriously, change selves and thinking.

The Earth Is The Lord's
Who Says So?

Text; Psalm 24; 1, The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein.

Soil Stewardship Week

The Earth is the Lord's, Who says so? The author of the 24th Psalm tells us this, but modern man says, this is my mine and if the drainage water drains into the nearby streams and kills a few fish and makes the water unsafe to drink can I help it. After all I have to make a living and I can't spend all of my money cleaning things up. We have those water treatment plants on the river and that's their job. The factory owner who runs a ^{pulp} paper mill says, can I help it if we give off byproducts that supposedly pollute the air. We're running a factory here and can't be bothered with the outside air that is breathed ^{this is my property} by the townspeople. The farmer says, I've been plowing this way for years and now all of a sudden I'm told to plow so the rains and weather won't erode the ground. Why, I've had good crops for years and maybe I have lost a little ^{After all this is my land} of the ground, but not that much that it makes a difference. The average American says, so what's a little more paper or another bottle on that pile in this park. I pay taxes like anyone else and it's the job of the park maintenance men to keep this place cleaned up. And after all it's as much my park as it is anyone else's. The average homeowner says, this is my land and my property and I can do anything I want to with it. And so it goes on and on each individual claiming the right to do as he or she wishes, and each one claiming the air, the soil, the water as their own to do with what they please.

Jesus told a story of a man who planted a vineyard. He put a fence around it and he put a tower in it and also put in a winepress. Then he leased it out to tenants to run for him and then he went away on a trip. When the time came for the harvest he sent servants to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants ~~knocked~~ his servants, killing one, severely beating one and injuring another with stones. So he sent some more servants but this time in a larger number. They treated them exactly the same. Finally in desperation he sent his son, because he felt they would not harm him. But when the tenants saw him they seized him and killed him also. So Jesus asks the question

"Now what will the owner of the vineyard do to them?" Of course this is only a parable and it can be interpreted in many different ways. To interpret it to fit today's sermon requires that we identify each of the characters involved. The owner of the vineyard is God. The tenants are you and I, all of the people of the earth. The vineyard is the world. The servants sent to the vineyard who are killed and chased off, are the prophets who have been trying to preach to mankind for years and years.

You and I and all of mankind are the stewards or tenants if you will of God's property. This means then that we have a responsibility to God as tenants to work His property. If we hire someone to work for us we expect a return on our investment. In other words we want to see some results for the money we pay them. God is no different in this respect as an employer. He should be able to demand from each of us a certain amount of work to improve this planet.

Seneca was a Roman philosopher and a stoic. Stoicism taught that God is in everything. Seneca said, "God is near you, with you, within you; a holy spirit sits within us." To this the sceptics laughed and said, "You mean God is in earthworms, God in beetles?" Why not, demanded Seneca, Cannot an earthworm serve God? It is not only the Bishop or the priest or the church leaders who can serve God. It is the lowliest deacon or deaconess in the congregation. It is the brand new member who perhaps just joined the church. Man's chief end in life is to serve God and glorify Him.

The doctor on his rounds, the scientist at his microscope, the farmer on his tractor or at his milking equipment, the hardware man at his store counter, the clerk at his desk, the housewife at her housework, all, serve God in worship. Not only services in the church but every day and in every task we should be thinking that our service is praising God and in turn is worshipping Him. This is our duty as tenants of God's vineyard. It is not only work in His church, but in our private lives outside of the church as well.

The living of life as a tenant in God's vineyard requires a responsibility as well. William Barclay the biblical scholar and interpreter states, "Every man is a link in the chain of being; every man must see that he is a good link. Every man's life points somewhere; he must see that it points to goodness and to God." This responsibility requires that we want to make some changes. We must want to not only change the present environment but also ourselves.

Some people have predicted that it is now too late to turn back the hands of destiny and that we can no longer improve the atmosphere or unpollute the streams or stave off all of the events to come because of our waste and wanton destruction. But there are also good signs that we can do things to revert the pollution and damage to the environment. But the time to act is now.

The story is told of 3 apprentice devils who were consulting with Satan to be sent to earth on a mission for him. The first said, "I will tell men there is no God." Satan replied, "That will not delude many for they know there is a God." The second said, "I will tell men there is no hell." Satan replied, "You will deceive no one that way; men know even now that there is a hell for sin." The third said, "I will tell men that there is no hurry." "Go", said Satan, "And you will ruin men by the thousand." You see, the most dangerous delusion a man can work under is that of having tomorrow to accomplish the task. It is so easy to say, "I'll do it tomorrow," and then promptly forget it until tomorrow and then postpone it to yet another tomorrow. There are some things that cannot and must not be put off until tomorrow, because no man is sure that tomorrow for him ~~may come~~ will come.

So if we all join the fight against the waste and destruction of land, and property, and water, and air, perhaps we can begin to accomplish what needs to be done and not look to future generations to do what we should be doing now. This has been the story of the world and in particular our nation. We have done things and then looked to the succeeding generations

to undo our mistakes. This is what our young people are trying to tell us. And I can't say that I can blame them for feeling this way. I do not feel like inheriting from the older generations their problems that they created and left to my generation to clean up. We need to all get involved in this problem confronting us.

And it is not going to solve anything either for us to sit back and say, "Well its God's will that we have pollution and the type of deterioration we have now." I can't buy this type of thinking. The reason I can't buy it is because Jesus never said that any situation in his time was the will of his father and could not be taken care of. He healed people who were incurably sick. He raised people who had died. And if he did these things and it was the will of God that they were incurably ill, and were to die and remain dead, then he went against God, and I cannot believe that either. No, my friends, our problems are self created, and they must be taken care of by us if we are to be about our fathers business as we should be.

In a short story written by O. Henry, there was a boy who had been brought up in a village. In the little school he attended he sat beside a very nice, innocent, clean decent young lady. Very soon the boy found his way to the city and there he got in with the wrong people; and soon he was an expert pickpocket and thief. Very expertly one day he had just picked a mans pocket and was walking along feeling fairly proud of himself, when he happened to see someone who looked very familiar to him. He ducked behind a pole so he would not be seen. But he looked and sure enough it was that same sweet, innocent young girl he had known in school and sat beside. Suddenly he saw himself for what he really was, and leaning his head against the pole he said, "God, how I hate myself." The thoughts of what he should have been and could be were driving him back.

William Cowper wrote, "Where is the blessedness I knew
When first I saw the Lord? Where is the soul refreshing view of Jesus and

his word?" To realize that something is wrong is the first step to changing the way of living and returning to the life that should be led. But it requires more than just wanting to change self.

Ligh Hunt wrote a poem about such a man.

Abou Ben Adhem (may his tribe increase)
 Awoke one night from a deep dream of peace,
 And saw within the moonlight of his room,
 Making it rich and like a lily in bloom,
 An angel writing in a book of gold:
 Exceeding peace had made Ben Adhem bold, And to the presence in the room he sai
 "What writest thou?" The vision raised its head,
 And with a look made of all sweet accord,
 Answered, "The names of those who love the Lord."
 And is mine one?" said Abou. "Nay not so,"
 Replied the angel. Abou spoke more low, But cheerliiy still; and said,
 "I pray thee then, Write me as one who loves his fellow men."
 The angel wrote and vanished. The next night it came with a great ~~awakening~~
 light, And showed the names whom love of God had blessed,
 And lo! Ben Adhems name led all the rest.

We must ~~learn~~ learn to love our fellowman enough that we want not only the best for ourselves but for him as well. That if someone is in pain, we are too. That if someone is hungry, we are hungry. If someone is suffering, then we suffer. And we must learn to have concern for those who are afflicted with polluted water, and air and litter and garbage. Because we don't have it doesn't say that we may never have it. A lot of these things have a way of creeping to other places too. So if we are the concerned Christians we should be, then we will strive to join the fight against each of these problems today. As joint tenants of God's vineyard let us each take our responsibility seriously, and let us change ourselves and our thinking, so we can help work for the betterment of mankind. Amen.